



Newsletter for English Teachers December 2004

This Newsletter for English Teachers is a monthly publication by the Information Resource Centers in Germany. It focuses on American Studies topics of relevance to our academic audiences.

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CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas as we know it today is a Victorian invention of the 1860s. Probably the most celebrated holiday in the world, our modern Christmas is a product of hundreds of years of both secular and religious traditions from around the globe.

- **About the USA: Holidays > Christmas**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/holidays-xmas.htm>
- **Facts for Features by the US Census Bureau: Holiday Season**
http://usa.usembassy.de/etexts/hol/ff_christmas2004.pdf
- **History Channel: History of Christmas**
<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/holidays/christmas/index.html>
- **The Night Before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore**
<http://www.christmas-tree.com/stories/nightbeforechristmas.html>
- **Christmas Music: Download Christmas Carols, Songs, and Lyrics**
<http://www.amclassical.com/christmas.shtml>
- **Yahoo Link List: Christmas**
[http://dir.yahoo.com/Society and Culture/Holidays and Observances/Christmas/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Holidays_and_Observances/Christmas/)
- **Holiday Food**
<http://hoover.archives.gov/exhibits/legends/food/index.html>
- **Christmas Cookies Recipes**
<http://www.8qv.com/cookie-recipes/christmas-cookies.html>

Please check the U.S. embassy's website should you plan to send Christmas gifts to the United States!

Frequently Asked U.S. Customs Questions:

<http://germany.usembassy.gov/germany/faqs/customs.html>

Q: How do I send parcels/gifts to the U.S. from abroad?

A: Be sure to fill out the international customs declaration with a full, accurate description of the goods inside and attach it to the parcel's exterior. Bona fide, unsolicited gifts will clear Customs duty-free as long as their fair retail value does not exceed \$100 and the recipient does not receive more than \$100 worth of gifts in the same day. There is no duty waiver for shipments containing alcohol-based perfume or tobacco products unless the entire shipment is worth less than \$5 retail. Detailed information on sending packages to the U.S. from abroad is available from the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection document on International Mail Imports. Please also refer to the special section on "Shipments eligible for duty waivers - gifts".

Q: How do I send parcels containing food gifts through international mail?

A: If you plan to send an article of food by international mail, the FDA must receive prior notice before food is imported or offered for import into the United States. The prior notice must be submitted before the food has been sent to the United States and the parcel must be accompanied by confirmation of FDA receipt of prior notice. If the article of food is sent by an individual as a personal gift (i.e., for nonbusiness reasons) to an individual in the United States, you may provide the name and address of the firm that appears on the label instead of the name, address, and registration number of the manufacturer. If a registration number is provided, city and country may be provided instead of the full address. Prior Notice does not apply to food that was made by an individual in his/her personal residence (e.g. cake, bread) and sent by that individual as a personal gift (i.e., for non-business reasons) to an individual in the United States.

- More Information:
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~pn/pngift.html>
- You can submit a prior notice electronically at:
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~pn/pnview.html>

ARTS IN AMERICA: THE NEW MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

For more than two years, the Museum of Modern Art had been exiled to a reconditioned staple factory in Queens and to Berlin's *Neue Nationalgalerie* where the exhibition of some of the MoMA's masterpieces ran from February 20 to September 19 and attracted more than 1.2 million visitors.

On November 20, to coincide with its seventy-fifth anniversary, the Museum of Modern Art reopened in Midtown Manhattan. The home of the world's preeminent collection of modern and contemporary art has been expanded and architecturally reimagined by Japanese architect Yoshio Taniguchi.

Founded in 1929 in order to help people understand and enjoy the visual arts of our time, the Museum of Modern Art was the world's first museum dedicated to the education and

enjoyment of modern art. MoMA's rich and varied collection constitutes one of the most comprehensive and panoramic views into modern art in the world, and has grown to include over 135,000 paintings, prints, photographs, drawings, sculptures, films, and design objects.

- **The Museum of Modern Art**
<http://www.moma.org/>
- **NYT/Special Section: The New Modern**
<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/arts/artsspecial>

Related Items:

- **About the USA:**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/arts.htm>
- **Portrait of the USA: Distinctively American Art**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/etexts/factover/ch10.htm>
- **PBS Teacher Source: Arts and Literature**
http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/arts_lit.htm
- **Cultural Policy and the Arts National Data Archive (CPANDA)**
<http://www.cpanda.org/>

December 1st is World AIDS Day

As we approach World AIDS Day on December 1, 2004 this is perhaps the best chance all year to talk about HIV/AIDS with your students.

This year's observance focuses on women and girls. In sub-Saharan Africa, 57 percent of HIV-positive people are women. In some communities, as many as 20 percent of girls aged 15-19 are infected, compared to just 5 percent of boys.

Even when not infected themselves, women end up caring for the sick and orphans, putting their livelihoods at risk. Many girls become heads of households while still children, limiting their potential. Women pass HIV to their children through pregnancy and childbirth.

Under President Bush's US \$15 billion Emergency Plan, the American people are helping the world meet these challenges. The U.S. plan focuses on preventing new infections, bringing lifesaving therapy, and caring for those infected and affected by the disease, including orphans and vulnerable children. The American people have invested \$2.4 billion in the fight this year - more than all other donor governments combined.

The U.S. works with over 100 nations directly under the Emergency Plan. The plan also has a special focus on 15 nations in Africa, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia that collectively have half the world's infections.

- **White House - HIV/AIDS Initiatives**

- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/hiv aids/>
- **USAID - Health HIV AIDS**
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/aids/index.html
- **The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief**
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/aids/pepfar.html

Electronic Journals:

- **Health Systems for HIV/AIDS and Other Diseases**
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/1201/ijge/ijge1201.htm>
- **AIDS - The Threat to World Security**
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0700/ijge/ijge0700.htm>

DEDICATION OF THE CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

„Today, we're all red, white and blue.“

(Former President Clinton at the dedication of his library in Little Rock, Arkansas on Nov. 18, 2004)

The William J. Clinton Presidential Center

The William J. Clinton Presidential Center, which was dedicated on November 18, is the eleventh library in the Presidential Library system. It houses millions of documents and other artifacts. The Presidential Center site includes the Presidential Library and Museum, the Rock Island Railroad Bridge, which will be renovated to become a pedestrian bridge crossing the Arkansas River and the Choctaw Station, built in 1899, which will house the Clinton School of Public Service and Clinton Foundation offices.

The Clinton Foundation works in five critical areas—the battle against HIV/AIDS, economic empowerment, citizen service, leadership development, and racial, religious and ethnic reconciliation.

The Web Site of the William J. Clinton Foundation

The web site of the William J. Clinton Foundation Web site is an interactive and educational platform providing global access to the historical records of President Clinton's administration and real-time information about his ongoing work. The Web site features a comprehensive, searchable database of all 20,000 publicly released historical documents and multimedia artifacts from the Clinton administration, as well as educational materials, news about his current activities, and multimedia capabilities.

<http://www.clintonpresidentialcenter.org>

- **Former President Clinton's Remarks at the Library Dedication**
<http://www.clintonpresidentialcenter.org/111804-sp-president-clinton-remarks-given-at-dedication.htm>
- **President Bush's Remarks at the Library Dedication**
<http://whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/11/20041118-3.html>

- **In Little Rock, Bill Clinton I still the Life of the Party**
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A60893-2004Nov18.html?referrer=email> (you will need to sign up for a WashPost account)
- **History of Presidential Libraries: Portals to the Past**
<http://www.clintonpresidentialcenter.org/pres-lib-history.htm>

"We have to spend our lives building a global community and an American community of shared responsibilities, shared values, shared benefits." Of the Library, he said it "is the symbol of not only what I tried to do but what I want to do with the rest of my life. Building bridges from yesterday to tomorrow. Building bridges across racial and religious and ethnic and income and political divides."
(William J. Clinton)

ELECTION RESULTS

President Bush Thanks Americans in his Acceptance Speech

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/11/20041103-3.html>

Events in Leipzig's Consular District

Lecture der American Studies Alumni Association:

Karsten Voigt, Koordinator für deutsch-amerikanische Beziehungen im Auswärtigen Amt

„Die Transatlantischen Beziehungen nach den US-Wahlen“

Zeitgeschichtliches Forum Leipzig, Grimmaische Straße 6, 04109 Leipzig

Dienstag, 30. November 2004, 15:00 Uhr

Ausstellung: Dokumente und Hörbeispiele zu Leben und Werk des in Leipzig ausgebildeten Komponisten George W. Chadwick

Ein Amerikaner in Leipzig: George W. Chadwick

Bibliotheca Albertina, Beethovenstraße 6, 04107 Leipzig

23. November 2004 - 20. Januar 2005

Montag bis Freitag 9 - 21 Uhr, Samstag 9 - 17 Uhr

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www.usembassy.de/irc

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